

THE

REHEARSAL.

Of Pretended Danger to the Church

1. The Danger not from the Queen.
2. No such Insulting ever Heard of. No. Not in Forty-One.
3. Our Security in the Queen.
4. The Voting no Danger to the Church, was Forbidding Both sides to Meddle with it.
5. The Church-side has Forborne. But not the other.
6. They give Us Plainly to Understand, That in the Union with Scotland, our Episcopacy, Liturgy, with all our Rites and Ceremonies, and the Act of Uniformity, must give Place to Presbytery, and the Extempore Eloquence.
7. The Rehearsal, N. 20. a full Answer to all their Objections about Imposing Indifferent things.
8. Their Standing out against the Exhortations to Moderation from the Queen, and both Houses of Parliament.
9. They Attack the Universities. And Caution men to Fly from the Church, as from a Falling-House. And call her now something next to Nothing.

From Saturday December the 22d. to Saturday December the 29th. 1705.

Country-m. Now, Master, your Enemies think your Mouth is stopt, since it has been voted in both Houses of Parliament, that there is no Danger to the Church, under the Queen's Administration. And they Expect, and wou'd fain see you say something to the Contrary, that they might have an Accusation against you.

(1.) *Rehears.* They never had any Ground against me, upon that Head. For I never thought the Church was in Danger under the Queen's Administration. Of whose Affection to the Church as no Man can doubt, so is her Safety wrapt up in that of the Church, and Inseparabla from it. As it was with her Royal Grand-Father. Who soon fell a Sacrifice to [their] Rage, who had before Pull'd down the Church; Notwithstanding of their Many and most Earnest Protestations of Loyalty, and taking God to Witness, that they meant no Harm to him in all that; but wou'd make him a Glorious King. Which they Perform'd, like the Oracles of the Devil, in a Different Sense from what they intended he shou'd Understand.

(2.) I confess, I thought, if there was Danger to the Church, it was from the Multitude of most Scurrilous and Scandalous Papers and Pamphlets which Flew about all the Nation; Rendring the Church the Jeſt and Abhorrence of the Populace. And I believe no one Instance can be shew'd, since the World began, in any Nation whatsoever, where the Religion and Church that was Established, whether Jewiſh, Heathen, Christian, or Mahometan, was ever

Insulted, in so Open and Notorious a Manner, as has of late befallen the Church of England. It far exceeds what was done in Forty-One. There were then ſeveral Seditious Pamphlets ſtole abroad, which ſufficiently Poſon'd the People, and Prepar'd them for the Revolution that was Enſuing. As King Charles the first, too late obſerv'd, and Attributed the Chief Cause of the Rebellion to their Influence. But there was not Then a Mint, a Fund, a Bank ſet up, to Furniſh every Day in the Week with Fresh Libels againſt the Church, the Authors Known, and after Punishment, going on with it; And ſome of them putting their Names to it, and Defying Justice! Forty One affords no Precedent for this!

(3.) However, while the Queen keeps the Administration, we cannot Fear the Diſſolution of our Church, because it wou'd be her own Diſſolution. And ſhe muſt know it.

(4.) But, Country-man, what do you think? Don't you think it was the Intention of those who Voted no Danger to the Church, That as the Clamour of Danger, on the one Side, ſhou'd Ceafe; So on the other side, all fresh Provocations, Threatnings, and Insulting of the Church ſhou'd Ceafe likewife?

Country-m. O, Master, don't put me upon Guessing the Designs and Intentions of Great Men! It is the Part of Honest Country-men to Obey and Submit to the Wisdom of our Superiors, and not to be Canvassing and putting our own Conſtructions upon all their Actions. But ſurely One wou'd think, that their Design was to put

an End to Strife and Debate; And that now, in the time, of War especially, there shou'd be Union and good Correspondence among all Protestants, of her Majesty's Subjects more especially.

(5.) Rehears. No doubt you Guess Right, Country-man, and as an Honest Man shou'd. But as the Strife has wholly Ceas'd on one side, on the side of the Church; So has it Flam'd out on the other side, rather more, and more Insolently than Before! As if the Whiggs and Dissenters Understood her Majesty's most Gracious Speeches and Exhortations to Peace and Union, and Christian Moderation, and the Votes of Parliament pursuant, to be meant only on ONE side, to Gagg up the Mouth of the Church, and Give others free Leave to Provoke and Slander still on! To shut up Judah, but let Ephraim Loose! Which is entirely to pervert the good Intentions of her Majesty and Parliament, to preserve a Brotherly Love and Affection among all her Subjects.

Country-m. I can hardly Believe (Master) they are so wicked. But if it shou'd be so, it will make Good all that you have formerly said of these Men, and of their Designs. Therefor pray, Oblige me with a little Froose upon this Head.

(6.) Rehears. The Review of the 11th this Month, Num. 120. comes upon the Union now on foot betwixt England and Scotland. And upon the Point of Religion, that is, Whether Episcopacy must be Restor'd in Scotland, or their Presbytery Prevail in England, to make Us both ONE, he gives his Opinion freely for the Latter. He says, p. 479. *The Establishment of the present KIRK in SCOTLAND is too Firm for any Power on Earth to Shake; and the SCOTS cannot be Guilty of a Design to Subvert it.* They are a Tenacious People when they Adhere to a Profession of RELIGION, or any thing else; they are not the Easiest People in the World to be Turn'd off from it, especially by Force. And p. 480. he Rivets it again, saying, *And I am Bold to say, SCOTLAND will be always Unanimous, Hearty, Zealous, and Faithfull, in the Matter of RELIGION.*

Country-m. He speaks as if he knew them, and held Correspondence with them, else he is Bold indeed!

Rehears. No doubt he knows the mind of their Dear Brethren here in England, and that they Both Act in Concert, as they always have done. But now, Country-man, I come to shew you how this Union is to be Compleated, since Scotland is Tenacious, and will not Yield an Ace.

Country-m. If two Men are to Meet, and the One will not Budge a Foot, the Other must Come all the way to Him. I can see no other way of their Meeting.

Rehears. That's Plain, Country-man. And he says the same, in the same Page 480. He says, all the Preliminaries of this Treaty consist in three, Religion, Trade, and Civil-Government. Charity woud Heal the First. &c.

Country-m. What do's he mean by Charity? Is that our Compliance with Them? Then all the Charity is on Our Side! It seems, They have no Charity for Us, for Episcopacy: But Episcopacy must have all

Charity for Presbytery! A Blessed Union! I suppose they expect we should Part too with our Liturgy (for their Scots Presbyterian Eloquence) and all our Rites and Ceremonies, and with our Act of Uniformity into the Bargain!

Rehears. The Review of last Nov. 22. Num. 112. is wholly spent against our Liturgy, Rites, and Ceremonies, and particularly against the Act of Uniformity, by Name, which he Calls, p. 448. *Scandalous to the Church, Injurious to the Publick Peace, and a Grievance to the whole Nation.* And says, that the Imposition of Ceremonies and Terms of Communion, is, Contrary to the Laws of God, and the Interest of the Nation. And he Addresses all this to the Bishops now in Convocation Assembl'd, as the most Proper Persons to Remove all these Stumbling-Blocks out of the way. And speaks with a seeming Assurance, as if they were inclin'd so to Do! And Concludes to their Lordships, that doing all this, you cannot in Conscience omit.

(7.) Country-m. I thought your Rehearsal, N. 20. had clear'd this Point of Imposing Indifferent things, as Terms of Communion. For there you Plainly shew, That in the Church of England no Terms of Communion are Impos'd, except those of the Apostles Creed. But you have often told me, That the Method of these Men is not Answering, but going on still with the Clamour! I'm sure I cou'd get no other Answer to it, from all the Dissenters I cou'd meet with, but Scratching their Ears, and Simpering like a Furmety-Kettle. Besides some few Hard-Names upon your Worship, as an Incendiary, and Enemy to Peace! Because they will have no Peace but their own way. And I wou'd Desire Mr. Review to Try his Hand, and see what he can say to that Rehearsal, or else give up his Clamour, as to Imposing of Indifferent things. Which They do, as much as We.

(8.) Rehears. What I am now upon, is, their keeping up their Clamour against the Church, at a Time when they are Exhorted both from the Throne, and by both Houses of Parliament, to Moderation, and Healing Methods. Instead of which, they continue to Insult the Church more and more. And tell her Plainly, That the Terms of Union with Scotland, must be her total Overthrow, as now by Law Establish'd.

(9.) The Rest of the WEEKLY Papers on that side, run all full Cry in the same Strain. Which I will shew you another time. They Attack the Universities, and wou'd have their Revenues put to some better Use. As Observator of last Nov. 21. And Review puts in his Thrust against them, in his of last Oct. 26. *Their Church (says Observator in his of this Decemb. 15.) Which is SOMETHING, next Kin to NOTHING.* And, They might have left it, as RATS do a falling HOUSE. They have Devor'd it already, in their Expectations! Who are they then that Cry Danger to the Church! Who ought to be Esteem'd Enemies to the Church, to the Queen, to the Nation! And must This go on!